3. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 years. (Section-6a)

4. Ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (Section-6b)

5. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section-7)

The section-4 of the said Act prohibits smoking in public places, thereby protecting the non-smokers from second hand smoke/environmental tobacco smoke. The Ministry of Health has issued guidelines to the State Governments/ Departments to implement the smoke-free rules.

Further, the pilot phase of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has also been launched in 2007-08 in 18 districts of 9 States. The NTCP envisages building capacity of the State Governments in the effective enforcement of Anti Tobacco Laws and bringing about greater awareness about the ill effects of tobacco.

It is expected that the initiatives of the Government, in bringing about greater awareness of the harm effects of tobacco & strict enforcement of the anti-tobacco laws will protect the non-smokers & also progressively reduce the demand of tobacco products in India.

Shortage of Quality Seeds

*275.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe shortage of seeds, particularly quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the availability of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The over all availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for 2008-09 is 250.34 lakh quintals against the requirement of 207.28 lakh quintals as reported by the State/UT Governments.

(c) Systematic production of breeder, foundation and certified/quality seed is undertaken in every season by the seed producing agencies. Assistance is provided for seeds under different schemes being implemented by the Government of India. These schemes include (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) (ii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) (iii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta (iv) Technology Mission on Cotton (v) Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed (vi) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and (vii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Requirement of iron-ore by steel companies

*276.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how much iron-ore is required by all steel companies in Jharkhand for expansion/ Greenfield projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) would require nearly 800 million tonnes of ore for the next 30 years;

(c) if so, whether expansion plans of SAIL would be taken into account and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how Government has come to the conclusion that 800 million tonnes are enough for SAIL to meet its expansion plans?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The estimated iron-ore requirement of the major steel companies in the State of Jharkhand on completion of their projected expansion/Greenfield capacities amounts to 211.7 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA). This includes the current requirement of 17.98 MTPA of iron ore for the existing steel production capacities.

(b) to (d) As presently estimated, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) would have a total requirement of about 1400 Million Tonnes (MT) of iron ore for the next 30 years in the State of Jharkhand for servicing present steel capacities as well as their expansion plans.

Revival of closed fertilizer units

†*277. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to declaration of U.P.A. Government any concrete steps have been taken for revival of fertilizer factories operated by FCI, HFC etc. which are now lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Government had on 12th April, 2007, decided to examine the feasibility of revival of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to confirmed availability of gas. Further, in pursuance of the above decision of the Government, the techno-economic feasibility of revival of the closed units of HFCL and FCIL was examined in detail and it is found that except for the existing plant machinery, the basic infrastructure *viz* land, water, electricity, railway siding, silos, etc. can be gainfully utilized through revival of these closed units by setting up of new brown field urea projects. Moreover, the revival has also been found to be economically viable under the policy for new investments in urea sector.

In view of above and the imminent need to increase indigenous production of urea in the country, the Government on 30.10.2008, has decided to revive the Barauni Unit of HFCL through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) promoted by fertilizer PSUs and Cooperatives. The Government has further constituted a Empowered Committee of Secretaries to look into all financial models for revival of each of the closed units along with the provision of various linkages including gas. The Government has also accorded 'in principle approval' for considering writing off of GOI loans and interest liabilities of the HFCL and FCIL towards the Government subject to submission of fully tied up proposal for final decision on waiver.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.